

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association      November 2019 Vol. 86, No. 5

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**President's Message:** Greetings fellow FARA members! Since the last Circuit in September we have had two club meetings, and a Board meeting. At the October meeting, Dave Miscia KB1YXL gave us a very interesting talk on things to do with the International Space Station. At the November meeting, Bob Phinney, K5TEC, with assistance from Bruce Tinkler, N9JBT, presented a thought provoking participatory talk on ways to get youth involved in our club, including ways to improve our publicity, and how to think about redefining the club. Sumner, W1VIV and Dave, KB1VLS have been working on the Field Day equipment and wiring and have submitted a piece for the Circuit below. Steve Babbitt, KC1LPZ, submitted a piece on volunteer work.

**Speaker suggestions and ideas for the Circuit.** We are always looking for suggestions for topics and outside speakers and contributions to the newsletter. Also we invite any home grown FARA member volunteers to give a talk at our meetings! The older Circuits had a section where people could submit pictures, station news, license upgrades, antenna projects, new gear, rare DX, etc., for the newsletter.

**Rag Chew On Air Weekly Club Meeting:** I am usually mobile but not within range, how is this going? I have not heard much. How can we beef it up? Better night? Better time? Different structure?

**Open Positions:** We have open positions for Director of Training, Activities Coordinator, Publicity Officer and Emergency Coordinator. One member, Dave Miscia, KB1YXL, has expressed interest in the Emergency Communication position. If you are interested in any of these or have a suggestion for a nomination, please inform one of the officers or Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, the Director.

**FARA Members Email:** Paid members and lifetime members should be receiving emails from [members@w1fy.org](mailto:members@w1fy.org). Let Steve or I know if you or anyone else is not getting the club emails. Non-members interested in receiving news about FARA can view the website or get on the separate [news@W1fy.org](mailto:news@W1fy.org) by going to [http://w1fy.org/subscribe-to-fara\\_news](http://w1fy.org/subscribe-to-fara_news)

**Echolink:** The Echolink connection continues to be working very well, I use it almost every week for the Sunday net. We get 1-3 check-ins each week on Echolink for the Sunday night net. I have heard folks from out of the area check in on Echolink too at other times of the day.

## FARA Meetings Held Recently

**Board Meeting:** September 21, 2019. We had a series of board meetings over the past year to discuss among other topics, the future of the flea. We considered many important factors and issues, its history and role in the club, its role in the local community of ham radio, and the scholarships that resulted from it. After multiple very comprehensive discussions, the board has made the difficult decision to suspend the club flea at this time. So we will not be having a 2020 flea. We appreciate all the help and support that folks have provided in past years to make it successful. We have notified our past vendors, Keefe Tech, and posted this change on our website.

Dave Miscia, KB1YXL, at October meeting, after talk on the ISS, below.



Bob Phinney, K5TEC on right and Bruce Tinkler N9JBT in middle after talk on getting youth involved and rethinking the club, below.



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## Getting Ready for Next Field Day by Sumner Weisman, W1VIV

Although Field Day 2020 is not until next June, FARA is already making preparations. These include the construction of all new power cables, testing the radios for proper operation, keeping the batteries charged 24-7 for long life, and running tests simulating actual Field Day conditions to test battery life.

Figure 1 shows some of our Field Day radios. These include (left to right) a Yaesu FT757GX, an Icom IC-746PRO, and a Kenwood TS-440S. All have been tested and are in good condition.

Figure 1. below. Field Day Radios with some accessories



Figure 2. on right. New No. 10 cables, showing heavy duty fuse holders

New power cables have been recently constructed by Sumner Weisman and David Levenson, KB1VLS. Anderson Power Poles and No. 10 stranded wire were used to minimize voltage drop. Figure 2 shows our new cables, connected to the batteries through 30A fuses.





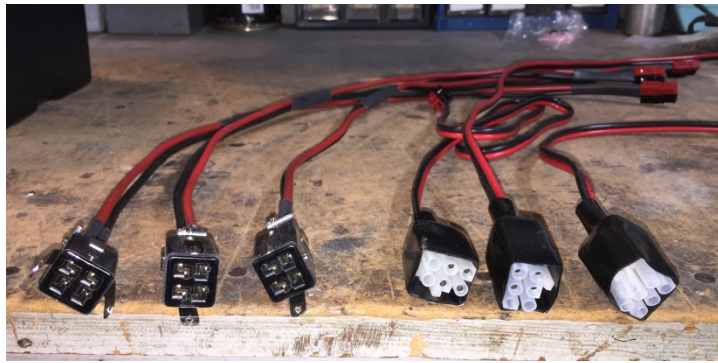


Figure 3. To left. Power connectors to Transceivers. The 4-pin connectors are for Yaesu, and the 6-pin connectors are for Kenwood and Icom.

Figure 4 below shows a complete Field Day setup, including radio, battery booster, antenna tuner, and battery. Note that we now use Power Poles throughout the system.



Figure 4



Figure 5 to left, shows our batteries being charged 24-7 with battery maintainers. A maintainer is a smart device that charges the battery constantly, but safely. It will never overcharge it, unlike some trickle chargers. A battery life is increased if it is not allowed to discharge.

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Steve Babbitt, KC1LPZ submitted the following:

“First let me start that I earned my Technician License in June, 2019 shortly after I retired from the computer technology industry. One month later I earned my General Class License. When I was on last week's FARA Sunday evening NET, I mentioned how impressed I was volunteering in various Amateur Radio events. The two specific events mentioned were the Algonquin Amateur Radio Club's EOC on Halloween evening keeping a watchful eye on the Public Schools in the City of Marlborough from 7-11 PM as a means to discourage pranks or possible acts of vandalism to their public schools.

“The other event I mentioned was volunteering for the Minuteman Repeater Association's need to have a work crew help disassemble a wide range of antennas located on the roof of the Dexter Southfield School in Brookline that were no longer being used by that private school. The similarities in both of these vastly different event had an enormous impact on me. In both places people worked together as a team, a well oiled machine. There were no egos, bravado, narcissism, rivalry, political posturing or other destructive behaviors that are often too common in many organizations throughout our society.

“We are all volunteers trying to accomplish a specific range of tasks towards a well articulated goal. In Marlborough we each had an assigned school, a Net Coordinator for our communications via our mobile handheld radios and a roaming supervisor making sure all of us in the field were safe and a well supported should serious trouble threaten us or property. As expected there were a few very minor happenings as we successfully deterred any possible trouble, a real help for Police, Fire and Emergency Rescue that have limited capabilities for coverage in an active City population.

“The second event was less formal as the 7 of us pulled down about a dozen antennas along with their coax cables. Once we were all on the same page on what was being dismantled, moved to another location or left untouched by us, the work commenced quickly sharing tools, keeping communications between those of us on the roof disconnecting the antennas and the crew on the 5th floor observatory just below us who were pulling the freed up coax cables.

“Before I continue, the rooftop has an amazing view of Boston to the East, Quabbin Reservoir on the West, Mt. Monadnock on the North and Quincy with part of the South Shore from the South. With the weather severely clear with no wind, the view was spectacular in all directions.

“Being new to HF as a newly licensed General, my knowledge is mostly theoretical book learning. For me this activity was a learning experience in an attempt to be a bit more street smart. Another guy also earned his General Class license this past August so this was a great learning experience working and sharing some helpful tidbits. Regardless of our status, we were part of this team, another well oiled machine where we each helped one another complete these tasks. We finished just shy of 6 hours. Again, this was another example of teamwork and I encourage any of you who may feel reluctant to volunteer to give it a try. You will not regret it. Stephen Babbitt, KC1LPZ”

**Nostalgia:** The December 2009 Circuit wrote about a talk on EMCOMM and ARES/RACES/MARS. There was mention of incorporation and 501c3 interests back then.

**Websites to check out:** <http://www.sotawatch.org> Check out Summits on the Air for folks operating from mountain tops. Also <https://www.sota.org.uk> I have worked several of these kinds of stations, mostly by accident when they call CQ SOTA!

**Upcoming Radio Events:** From WA7BNM website. <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

- CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Nov 23 to 2400Z, Nov 24
- Russian WW MultiMode Contest 1200Z, Nov 30 to 1159Z, Dec 1
- ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Dec 6 to 1600Z, Dec 8
- ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 14 to 2400Z, Dec 15
- ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW 1800Z-2359Z, Dec 22
- **Winter Field Day 1900Z, Jan 25 to 1900Z, Jan 26 !!!!!\*\***

**\*\* We might want to test out our new battery, connections, booster, and a field day radio on one of these contests.**

### **FARA HORIZONS -- UPCOMING EVENTS**

Dec 5, 2019: FARA Holiday Dinner at Carbone's Restaurant in Hopkinton, MA. We have about 13 folks so far, please send me notice if you haven't already.

January 2, 2020: Show and tell, bring something interesting to show the club. QLF contest: Try to send CW with your left foot. We will try a Youtube video on some Dxpedition.

**Winter Field Day 1900Z, Jan 25 to 1900Z, Jan 26 !!!!! We may test our equipment then.**

February 6, 2020: Adrian AB2IX on 3d printing.

March 5, 2020: Brian WO1VES on "boxes", the Yaesu HRI box, the Shark RF, the ones that tap into the DMR network.

April 2, 2020: Sumner W1VIV on Navy Ham Radio During the Korean War.

May 7, 2020: Pizza Party

June 4, 2020: Field day prep, officer elections.

## **Club Information:**

**Officers:** see <http://w1fy.org/fara-officers> (No change to officers this year)

- President: John Iwuc KB1VXY [president@W1FY.org](mailto:president@W1FY.org)
- Vice president: Paul King N1VAM [vp@W1FY.org](mailto:vp@W1FY.org)
- Clerk/Secretary: Victor Anderson K1VEA [secretary@W1FY.org](mailto:secretary@W1FY.org)
- Treasurer/Webmaster: Steve Moro N1MH [treasurer@W1FY.org](mailto:treasurer@W1FY.org) [webmaster@W1FY.org](mailto:webmaster@W1FY.org)
- Director Sumner Weisman W1VIV [director@W1FY.org](mailto:director@W1FY.org)
- Director of Testing Jim Weckback W1EQW [testing@fara.org](mailto:testing@fara.org)

**Meeting:** Club meetings are normally held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in the Framingham Police Station. Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., April., June.

### **Club Nets:**

- FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, 147.75/147.15 - social/chat, emergency preparedness
- Wednesday Roundtable Ragchew: 7:30 pm.

**Traffic passing:** Fred Beihold, NV1N, is very active in this activity. Contact Fred if you need help with this.

**Club Web Site:** [W1FY.org](http://W1FY.org)

### **Social Media:**

- [facebook.com/faraw1fy](https://facebook.com/faraw1fy)
- [twitter.com/fara\\_w1fy](https://twitter.com/fara_w1fy)

**Dues:** Going forward, the Board agreed that there will be one flat rate of \$20 per year per person or family, and no separate repeater fee. Paid members will be posted on the web page.

You can join/renew/pay online at <http://w1fy.org/membership-form>

Testing: Odd numbered months on the second Wednesday at 7:30PM by appointment only.  
<http://w1fy.org/license-exams>

**Mail Address:** Framingham Amateur Radio Association, PO Box 3005, Framingham, MA 01705